



ACT

Alanis Communication Therapy

Newsletter

Christmas Tree Give- Away HUGE SUCCESS!!

ACT had approximately 150 families come out to join us in our third annual Christmas Tree Give-Away! Families from



Houston, Stafford, Sugar Land, Pearland, Spring, Pasadena, Channelview, Galveston, and Baytown came out to participate in the event. ACT would like to thank all of those families as well as the employee volunteers for making it a huge success!

Reminders:

- Please remember to be on time for scheduled visits. If you have to cancel, call the number at the bottom of the page to let us know. Thank you!
 - The Christmas party will be December 19, 2010 at 7:00pm. Bring yourselves and your children. This is a celebration for all to enjoy!
 - The clinic will be closed for the Christmas Holiday on December 24th and 27th. We will also be closed for New Years on December 31st and January 3rd.
 - All field trip forms are due by December 17^{t-h}.
- Don't forget to join our new interactive website at <http://alanisspeech.wikispaces.com> You can post questions or comments on this page if you wish to do so.
 - Check out the digital animation software we are using with our kids in therapy <http://alanisspeech.wikispaces.com/Digital+Animation>



Helpful Hints for Communication

One question I frequently field is "Why doesn't my child talk?" There are many answers to this seemingly easy to answer question. Sometimes, it may simply be a matter of motivation and in other cases it may be a more serious issue such as a language disorder. If your child can follow simple directions and seems to understand what you are saying, but is having difficulty expressing his/her needs, you can help by providing multiple opportunities and a model for your child to speak. Hint for today: Sabotage! If your child loves cookies, but will not say the word "cookie", place the cookie jar out of reach where the child can see it. When your child cries for a cookie but only points to the jar, you can say "Oh, you want a cookie. Cookie." Give the child an opportunity to produce the word cookie before getting him/her a cookie. If the child produces any speech sound in the beginning, this can be considered an appropriate response and the child can get the cookie. Later on, you would want your child to say "cookie!"

Speech Sound Disorders

Many parents have concerns regarding their child's speech development. The first question to be answered is what is speech? According to Bowen (1998), Speech



is the spoken medium of languages. The sound patterns and organization of a language is called phonology. Phonological development is the "process of acquiring adult speech patterns." (Bowen, 1998). In the process of developing speech, children go from being unintelligible to being 100% intelligible. [This](#)

[intelligibility table](#) can be used by parent to check their child's intelligibility. Please be aware that all children are different and your child may be ahead of or behind the listed percentages. Common phonological processes are listed on Bowen's [website](#). You can also find [typical speech acquisition](#) at this site.

"Many parents have concerns regarding their child's speech development."

If you are concerned about your child's speech sound development, please call ACT at 281-299-9913 for a consultation.

Bowen, C. (1998). Children's speech sound disorders: Questions and answers. Retrieved from <http://www.speech-language-therapy.com/phonol-and-artic.htm> on 12-12-10.

A Special Note

ACT would like to thank all of you for allowing us the privilege to work with your children on a daily basis! We care about each and every child that comes through our door and we look forward to providing quality speech and communication therapy services for your children in the coming year. It is our goal to continue to provide children with a way to communicate and interact with their world.

Communication is Key!

May each of you have a happy and safe holiday season!



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